

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9423
A2R11
Mar. 22, 1943

cop.1

MACHINERY -- CARE, SHARE AND REPAIR

Broadcast by L. L. Needler, Chief, Farm Service and Supplies Branch, FPA, on the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, March 22, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

KADDERLY: Many farmers around the country are asking questions about farm machinery....Questions such as, "How much new farm machinery is there?" and "Will I get my share of it?" To give you the answer to some of these questions here is Mr. L. L. Needler, Chief of the Farm Service and Supply Branch of the Food Production Administration. Mr. Needler.

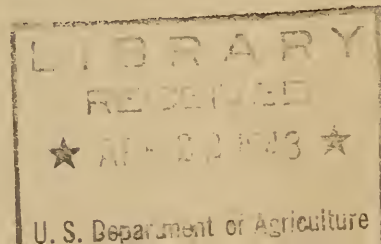
NEEDLER: Manufacturers this year will make about 40 percent of the average amount of the farm machinery produced in 1940. So it's obvious there will not be new machinery for all who need it. That's why it has to be rationed. A county committee, composed of three farmers determines which of those farmers who have filed applications for new machinery can grow the most food by its use. But...remember this.....we have rationing because there is a shortageWe do not have a shortage because there is a rationing.

Even if a farmer does get a purchase certificate for a new machine, he may not get the exact make of machinery that he wants. That's because large machinery manufacturers are now producing war goods. This leaves the smaller manufacturers to produce much of the farm machinery and it won't always be the kind most farmers know by name. But it will be good machinery. We, in the Department of Agriculture, are working hard to help these smaller manufacturers....who normally service limited areas....distribute their products into other sections of the country so that farmers everywhere may have an equal opportunity to buy them.

Now I'd like to say something about frozen machinery. Only the most essential and larger farm machines are rationed. Types that are not rationed include barnyard and poultry equipment and miscellaneous farm machinery. The freeze became effective last Nov. 1st. Ever since November 28, farmers with purchase certificates could buy any farm machinery in dealers hands. From time to time, beginning January 8, the Department has authorized distribution by the manufacturer of all plows, listers, harrows, planting, seeding and cultivating machinery, until at this time all spring use and year around use equipment has been released, except relatively few machines which the War Production Board has recently given manufacturers authority to produce in excess of their original quota. Most haying and harvesting equipment is still frozen, but will be released by April 15.

We have closed seasons for killing game so there will be more game. We are near the end of a partially closed season on the sale of farm machinery, that was necessary to permit an equitable distribution.

The final result will be more food. Just now we have a new worry. The steel mills are jammed with war orders. We are afraid that some manufacturers were not able to start production soon enough to get some of the farm machinery out in time for spring use. However, the situation has improved recently and the prospect is brighter for haying and harvesting equipment.



Since there won't be enough new machinery to supply all needs, we must make the old machinery go as far as possible. Liberal authorization has been made for the production of repairs and they are neither frozen nor rationed.

I trust most farmers already have their old machinery repaired, because every farm machine must be used to the maximum in raising and harvesting this year's crops. This will not be easy. There'll have to be a lot of machinery sharing, trading and renting. It will be a hindrance to the war effort if any farm machine is standing idle, when it's needed.

Abundant crops have been produced in the past with less new machinery than will be available this year. And with less efficient machinery. I have great faith in the ability, the ingenuity and in the neighborliness of the American farmer under trying circumstances. Given decent weather conditions he'll surprise a lot of people who don't know him.

KADDERLY: Farm and Home friends that was L. L. Needler, Chief of the Farm Service and Supply Branch of the Food Production Administration, discussing the farm machinery problem.

#